CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- OF THE -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1952.

R.D.C. OFFICES,
CHEPSTOW, MON.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIST OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Chairman : Mr. F.C. Walker

Vice-Chairman : Mr. D.H. Parry.

Councillors:

Mrs. K. Amoore,
Mr. R.G. Benjamin,
Mr. A.J. Bevan,
Mr. T.W. Bevan,
Mr. R.L. Clay,
Mr. D.T. Coleman,
Mr. H.G. Cook,
Mr. W.H. Gale,
Mr. L. Gardner,
Mr. R.J. Goff,
Rev. D.E. Gravell,
Mr. E. Griffiths,
Mrs. G.I. Heath,
Mr. S.M. Hill,
Mr. W.E.G. Hodges,
Mr. A. Jones,
Mr. A.E. Jones,
Mr. G.H. Jones,
Mr. S.G. Jones,
Mrs. A. Knight,
Mr. A.H. Morgan,
Mr. H.L. Morgan,
Mr. L. Nevison,
Mr. R.A. Newall,
Mr. A.S. Nicholas,
Mr. N.B.R. Norton,
Mr. W.J. Parker,
Mr. J.W.H. Petro,
Mr. D.F.E. Price,
Mr. J.W. Price,
Mr. C.R. Read,
Mr. T.S. Rowlands,
Mr. W.J. Sterry,
Mr. W.J. Titley,
Brig. G.B. Vaughan-Hughes.

Officers of the Council:

Clerk - Mr. G.D. Spearing.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. E.N. Dowell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor - Mr. L. Whittingham, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B., M.A.Rur.S., Certified Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector - Mr. D.C. Powell, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., Cert.S.I.B., Certified Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.

CHEPSTOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

R.D.C. Offices,

Chepstow, Mon.

To :- The Chairman and Members of the

Chepstow Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1952. The health of the district is satisfactory. The number of births is increasing and the number of deaths decreasing.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

E.N. DOWELL.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 42,459

Population.

Estimated mid-year Home Population 10,020
On last year's figures this shows a decrease of 160.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	82	86	168
Illegitimate	5	4	9

In 1951 the total live births were 166 and in 1950 they were 155.

Still Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3

In 1950 and 1951 there were 5 and 3 still births.

Infant Mortality.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.			
(i) Legitimate	4	2	6
(ii) Illegitimate	1		1
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.			
(i) Legitimate	2	-	2
(ii) Illegitimate		1	1

Table 1 gives a list of infant deaths under 1 year of age giving age at and cause of death.

In 1951 there were 12 deaths of infants under 1 year. This is the highest for the years 1950-52.

DEATHS.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths	56	49	105

There were 131 deaths in 1951. Although there has been a fall

in the number of deaths for males and females, the greatest fall has been for males. There were no deaths attributed to Tuberculosis but one to Poliomyelitis. There were 5 deaths whose cause was Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus, and the highest number of deaths due to any single cause was attributed to Coronary disease, angina, in which there were 17 deaths. There was one death due to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion. Of the total deaths 49 were 70 years or over at the time of death.

Table II gives a classification of the causes of death and the number attributed to each cause.

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

Immunisation.

Of the children born in the years 1952, 1951 and 1950, at the end of the year only 6, 34 and 69 were immunised. This is a low percentage of the number born in these years.

During the year Mathern, Itton and St. Arvans schools were visited and 38 children were given a booster dose and 16 were immunised for the first time.

Scarlet Fever.

7 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified as against 12 in 1950 and 4 in 1951.

Measles.

19 notifications were received and of these 13 were in the age group 5 - 9 years. This shows a decrease of 84 notifications as compared with the notifications for 1951.

Whooping Cough.

There were 7 notifications during the year. The headteacher at Llansoy School did report that 10 of the 15 children usually present were absent with Whooping Cough. Further notifications were received from the Headteachers of Itton and Mathern Schools where there were absent from school 5 and 8 children with Whooping Cough.

Poliomyelitis.

On the 23:8:52 it was reported that a male, age 17 years, had been removed to Alt-yr-yn Hospital suffering from

Poliomyelitis. There was one death in the district from this disease.

Tuberculosis.

The following were the notifications of new cases received during the year :-

(1)	Female - age 9 years.	Lungs
(2)	Female - age 44 years.	Cervical Glands
(3)	Male - age 30 years.	Lungs
(4)	Male - age 31 years.	Meninges
(5)	Male - age 23 years.	Lungs
(6)	Female - age 22 years.	Pleural effusion
(7)	Male - age 8/12 years.	Meninges
(8)	Male - age 29 years.	Lungs
(9)	Male - age 62 years.	Lungs
(10)	Female - age 39 years.	Lungs
(11)	Male - age 25 years.	Lungs
(12)	Male - age 6 years.	Spine.

During 1951 6 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis.

Mantoux Tests of School leavers.

Rogiet Secondary Modern and Tintern Schools were visited for the purpose of Mantoux testing school leavers. 13 children were tested at the former school and one at the latter. There were 4 positive reactors at Rogiet and nil at Tintern.

Mass Radiography Unit.

The Unit visited Chepstow during June and a number of people from this district were examined. It is impossible to separate the Rural from the Urban people who attended so the figures are given for the two districts. They are as follows :-

(1)	Total number of persons examined	=	1059
(2)	Total number found to be abnormal	=	67
(3)	Classification of abnormal cases :		
	(a) Definite Pulmonary Tuberculosis	=	0
	(b) Needing observation for Pulmonary Tuberculosis	=	10
	(c) Other abnormalities of chest	=	57.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Chepstow for the purpose of examining the school leavers of the district. 20 school leavers

from Caerwent, Itton, Newchurch West and Devauden Schools were examined. 10 were negative, 9 failed to return for a large film and one had an unsatisfactory miniature film. Arrangements are being made to get the latter 10 children examined at the Chest Clinic.

It is hoped by these means to reduce the number of new notifications in the district.

TABLE I

Infant Deaths under One year of age.

(1) 44 hours - Female	Ia. Cardiac Failure. b. Atelectasis. c. Prematurity.
(2) 7 months - Female	Ia. Gastro-enteritis.
(3) 3 months - Male.	Asphyxia due to the inhalation of vomited milk from the stomach into trachea and bronchus.
(4) 2 months - Male.	Ia. Peripheral Circulatory Failure. b. Ileo-caecal intussusception.
(5) 2 days - Male	Ia. Bronchopneumonia. b. Aspiration of amniotic fluid. c. Premature rupture of membranes.
(6) 2 days - Male.	Ia. Cerebral Haemorrhage. b. Prematurity.
(7) 1 month	Ia. Bronchopneumonia.

TABLE II

DEATHS 1952.

	Males.	Females.
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	3	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	1	5
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	6
Coronary disease, angina.	8	9
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-
Other heart disease.	6	8
Other circulatory disease.	1	1
Pneumonia		4
Bronchitis.	6	2
Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	1
Congenital malformations.	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	7	8
All other accidents.	4	-
ALL CAUSES	56	49

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED AGE GROUPS							Total all ages.
	Under 1 yr.	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 & over	
Diphtheria								
Scarlet Fever			3		4			7
Enteric Fever								
Pneumonia								
Puerperal Fever								
Cerebro Spinal Fever								
Acute Poliomyelitis						1		1
Enceph. Lethargica								
Dysentery								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum								
Puerperal Pyrexia								
Measles & German Measles		1	1	13	4			19
Whooping Cough		1	1	5				7
Other Diseases State Nature								
TOTALS.		2	5	18	8	1		34

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report
for the Year 1952.

Inspections during the Year.

Daries and Cowsheds	...	...	12
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	26
Bakehouses	...	...	14
Food Inspection	...	...	38
Drainage	...	...	126
Drain Testing	...	...	29
Sewerage	...	...	163
Water Supply	...	...	392
Housing (Complaints)	...	...	156
Infectious Disease & Disinfection		...	14
Nuisances	...	...	19
Disinfestation	...	...	7
Rural Housing Survey	...	...	143
Shops Acts	...	...	106
Housing Accommodation	...	...	207
Building Control	...	...	143
Housing Sites	...	...	224
Council House Repairs	...	...	182
Camping Sites	...	...	17
Hutted Camps	...	...	191
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	237
Factories	...	...	68
Building Byelaws	...	...	212
Petrol Licences	...	...	17
Miscellaneous	...	...	411

Work Done by Owners after Informal Notices:-

Housing Repairs	...	...	18
Drainage Repairs	...	...	8
Nuisances abated	...	...	7

by Owners after Statutory Notices:-

Housing Repairs	...	...	5
Drainage Repairs	...	...	-
Nuisances abated	...	...	-

Notices Served.

Informal Under Housing Acts	...	14
Informal Under Public Health Acts	...	27
Statutory Under Public Health Acts		3
Statutory Under Housing Acts	...	2

HOUSING.

Dwelling houses inspected under P.H. Acts or Housing Acts	299
Number of inspections made for the purpose	311
Number of houses inspected under Housing Consolidated Regs	143
Number of inspections made for the purpose	143
Number of houses injurious or dangerous to health	7
Number of houses not in all respects fit for human habitation	41
Number of houses rendered fit by informal action	26

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 of HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served	Nil
Number of houses rendered fit by Statutory action ..	Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served	Nil
Number of houses rendered fit by Statutory action ..	Nil

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13 OF HOUSING ACT 1936.

Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	Nil
Number of houses demolished	Nil

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is divided mainly into five separate areas for the supply of water and these are served as follows :-

1. St. Arvans	Small village scheme.	Untreated Supply.
2. Shirenewton	Small private scheme voluntarily operated by the Council	Untreated supply.
3. Devauden	Small village scheme	Untreated supply.
4. Mathern	Supplied by Chepstow Water Company.	Filtered and chlorinated supply.
5. Severn Tunnel Area comprising the villages of Portskewett, Caldicot, Rogiet Undy and Caerwent.	Supplied by Chepstow Water Company, Magor & St. Mellons R.D.C., and Newport Corporation.	Filtered and chlorinated supply.

Bacteriological samples of the above supplies were taken during the year and the results are indicated below :-

Parish	Samples	Raw	Treated	Results Satisfactory	Results Unsatisfactory
St. Arvans	11	11	-	11	-
Caldicot - (Highmoor Hill)	5	-	5	5	-
Undy	5	-	5	5	-
Rogiet	11	-	11	11	-
Devauden	4	4	-	4	-
Caerwent	5	-	5	5	-
Mathern	5	-	5	5	-
Shirenewton	15	15	-	15	-
TOTAL	61	30	31	61	-

It is particularly gratifying to note that satisfactory analyses were obtained throughout the year at Shirenewton and St. Arvans. At the end of 1951, work was carried out at the source of both these supplies after unsatisfactory results had been obtained from previous samples, and this appears to have eliminated the pollution. Both supplies have now attained a high degree of purity. A portion of the mains was renewed at St. Arvans and the supply to several cottages improved.

The parish of Mynyddbach consisting of 30 premises is served with 3 standpipes from a private reservoir constructed partly above ground. Samples taken during the year showed pollution in the reservoir and this was thoroughly cleansed. Subsequent samples showed marked improvement but the bacteriological standard still fluctuates with adverse weather conditions so that notices warning householders to boil the water have had to be erected. The only satisfactory solution to this problem is the installation of a new supply to serve both Shirenewton and Mynyddbach.

During the latter part of the year, an investigation regarding this scheme was held by an Inspector from the Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Formal approval was given to the scheme and the position at the end of the year was that the scheme was ready for the submission of tenders. Owing to the very long delay in the delivery of materials, however, it is not anticipated that this work will be commenced until the end of 1953 at the earliest.

The position at Tintern and Earlswood remains unaltered and the need for extensive schemes to supply these areas is still a matter requiring attention at the earliest possible time. Owing to inadequacy of financial assistance from Monmouthshire County Council the Council decided not to proceed with the proposal to supply the Common-y-Coed area.

Generally speaking, the quantity of water remained satisfactory throughout the year, but as in 1951, no drought period was experienced. Work was commenced at Devauden to provide additional storage and pumping facilities so that this supply will be augmented when the work is completed.

The following quantities of water were purchased during the year :-

Chepstow Water Company	57,027,000 gallons
Magor & St. Mellons R.D.C.	5,089,000 gallons
Newport Corporation	1,227,000 gallons

at a total cost of £1,636. This makes a total of 63,343,000 gallons at an average of 130 gallons per house per day, or 29 gallons per head per day of population supplied.

It will be seen from the following table that 67·9% of the premises in the district are supplied by mains piped into the premises whilst 2·2% of the dwellings are supplied by standpipe. This makes a total of 70·1% of the dwellings which are supplied with water, leaving 29·9% to be served with springs public wells etc.

Parish	Population supplied direct to houses	Number of houses	Population supplied by standpipes.	Number of houses
Caerwent	633	181	-	-
Caldicot	1743	509	132	38
Devauden	493	143	-	-
Kilgwrrwg	52	15	-	-
Llangwm	-	-	-	-
Llanvihangel-Rogiet	24	7	15	4
Mathern	763	218	24	7
Portskewett	1109	318	-	-
Rogiet	1152	329	-	-
St. Arvans	318	101	35	10
Shirenewton	-	-	-	-
Tintern	-	-	-	-
Undy	595	171	21	6

SEWERAGE.

No major extensions were carried out to sewerage schemes during the year, but the problem of flooding from sewage at Caldicot was tackled with considerable success. The position arose in times of heavy rain and was due mainly to three causes :-

1. Inefficiency of pumps to convey sewage from the lower end of the village to the West End so that it could then gravitate to the sea outfall.

2. Silting up of the 4" rising main from the Pumping Station to the West End of the village.

3. Admission of surface water through defective portion of sewer adjoining the Pumping Station.

A tender of £193 was obtained from Messrs. General Descaling Co., Sheffield for the work of cleansing the rising main. This was carried out during the summer with specialised equipment working on a mechanical boring principle. The rising main was 2600 feet in length and no means of access were provided at the time of its installation so that it had to be cut at six points and loose collars and joints inserted upon completion. Owing to the large quantity of silt in the pipe, its effective diameter was reduced to just over 1" at the West End. The job was found to be highly satisfactory when finished.

A defective portion of the sewer leading from the Pumping Station was renewed after considerable excavation due to the invert being 18 feet below ground level. The pumps were inspected by the manufacturers and the efficiency considerably increased.

The combination of these three factors has resulted in a very marked improvement in the conditions at this village and no complaints of nuisance from flooding have been received since the work was carried out. It is hoped that the Highway Authority will provide alternative means of disposal for surface water at present entering the sewer, and if this is done, the position will be eased still further.

During the month of August, the Council took delivery of a Scammell Cesspool Emptying Vehicle which is a trailer type and works in conjunction with the Refuse Collection Service. Cesspools are now emptied three days a week and refuse collected on two days with this vehicle, thus supplementing the refuse collection service carried out by the Council's other vehicle. The scheme provides for two free emptyings per dwelling per year and subsequant emptyings are carried out at a nominal charge of 10/-.

At the end of the year 155 applications had been received and of these 132 had been dealt with. In addition to these applications, the vehicle is provided with regular work for one day per week at trade premises which are charged at the rate of £1 per hour.

FOOD.

During the year the following foodstuffs were examined and found unfit for human consumption :-

273 tins Miscellaneous goods.

In addition to these, one carcase of Imported Mutton was returned to the Allocation Centre at Newport in a mouldy condition.

Two applications to the Food Office for Catering Licences required inspection of premises to comply with the requirements of Section XIII of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 and the Food Handling Byelaws. One of these premises was a shop at Caldicot which was converted into a Snack Bar.

An enquiry was made regarding the possibility of establishing a Depot for the storage of carcases of horses slaughtered outside the district but it was not proceeded with.

A case of Anthrax was reported in a pig at Portskewett and all the necessary precautions taken. No further cases were reported.

There were 14 food preparing premises operating in the district and these received regular inspections. They were all found to be satisfactory.

Ice Cream.

The snack bar mentioned previously was registered for the storage and sale of ice cream so that 13 premises were registered at the end of the year. All the ice cream sold in the district was prepacked with the exception of one itinerant vendor from Newport.

HOUSING.

The following new Council Houses were completed during the year :-

St. Arvans	10
Tintern	7
Caldicot	10
Devauden	2

A Womens Land Army Hostel at Llanishen was converted into 6 flats.

In addition the following houses were in course of erection at the end of the year

Tintern	11
Caldicot	24
Devauden	4

The scheme to provide 224 Unity houses at Caldicot was started and much of the sewerage system completed.

Repairs to hutments were carried out regularly during the year and these continue to provide accommodation for 51 families. Two cases of Tuberculosis are housed in these Camps and it is hoped that they will be rehoused during the forthcoming year. The condition of these hutments is fair but they require constant attention to keep them from deteriorating further. The satisfactory answer to this problem would be the rehousing of all present tenants and demolition of the huts. In actual fact, 11 persons out of the 51 have not even applied to be rehoused.

The Council's Housing Lists were revised after all applicants had been circularised and this resulted in a decrease in the number of applications from 600 to 427.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

The 38 Factories within the district were not the subject of a single complaint from the Factories Inspector. One certificate was issued for Means of Escape in case of Fire under Section 34 of the Act and there was only one outworker employed in the district.

The number of inspections and defects were as follows

FACTORIES ACTS.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	12	26		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	26	42		
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority - (excluding out-workers' premises).				
TOTAL	38	68		

DEFECTS FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	3	3			
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1			
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).					
TOTAL	6	6			

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Delivery of a Scammell Refuse Collecting Vehicle was taken in April and this has supplemented the existing Collection Service on two days per week. The majority of the district now receives a weekly collection

PETROLEUM ACTS.

32 licences were issued by the Council for the storage of Petrol under the above Acts and two new storage tanks approved. Informal action was taken to suspend the sale from one petrol pump until defects in the electrical supply system had been remedied.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the Rodent Operative treated premises as listed below :-

Month	Private Dwellings	Business Premises	Sewers	Local Authorities Premises.
1952.				
Jan.	53	2	-	2
Feb.	47	1	-	2
March	59	-	-	2
April	56	1	-	2
May	48	3	-	2
June	44	1	72 M.H's	2
July	51	2	-	2
August	69	-	-	2
Sept.	49	2	-	2
Oct.	64	2	-	2
Nov.	53	1	-	2
Dec.	46	-	72 M.H's	2